

## TRIBUTE TO HAROLD E. FORD

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleague the Honorable HAROLD E. FORD. He has achieved an unparalleled reputation of providing service to his constituents, and his fellow colleagues.

He has demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of all people. He effectively represents urban districts through his assignments on the Ways and Means Committee.

He has played a pivotal role in the legislation of health care reform, taxation, and welfare reform.

Knowing you, retirement is not the end of a career, but the beginning of some brand new one.

It has been my pleasure serving with you, and it gives me great joy to wish you an abundance of happiness during your retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE GIBBONS

HON. RICHARD NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a colleague, friend, and mentor—SAM GIBBONS. SAM GIBBONS was first elected to Congress in 1962 and he has been honorably serving the 11th District of Florida ever since he was first elected.

I have been privileged to serve with SAM not only as Member of the House, but as member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the oldest Committee in the House. I had the opportunity to serve with SAM both in the majority and minority. I was amazed at the adjustment he made from the majority to the minority.

During the Contract With America, there were many bleak days for the Democrats, especially those of us on Ways and Means. We were meeting everyday to work on agenda that we felt was the wrong direction for America. The manner in which SAM championed the rights of the elderly reminded me of the tradition of another great Representative from Florida, CLAUDE PEPPER. SAM kept on fighting and he inspired us all. We pulled together and rallied behind his energy to prevent enactment of drastic Medicare cuts.

Not only did he champion the rights of the elderly, he watched out for our future by strongly advocating children's rights. I hope many of us do not forget the image of SAM GIBBONS during the welfare debate wearing his "Save the Children" tie with a brightly painted school bus. His emotion reminded us of the gravity of the debate before us. Those of us who continue to serve should uphold the principles SAM GIBBONS displayed.

I was disappointed when I first heard the news of SAM's retirement. I remember reading his statement about how he was going to start another phase of his life and it is time to move on. I know at 76 years of age SAM has lots of fight left in him and I hope he continues to

lead us and share his opinions. I wish you well in your new life after Congress. Bust most of all, I want to thank you SAM for showing us how to fight for our beliefs.

## THE BRIDGE FUND

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, My colleagues, Representative SUE KELLY and ELIOT ENGEL, join me in paying tribute to the Bridge Fund, an innovative service organization in Westchester County that was founded 6 years ago to prevent homelessness.

The Bridge Fund receives referrals of individuals and families in danger of eviction or foreclosure from a wide range of social service and community organizations in the county. The Bridge Fund offers these individuals financial assistance, interest-free loans and grants, and intensive counseling.

The average cost to the Bridge Fund for preventing a family or individual from becoming homeless is approximately \$1,000. By comparison, the average expense for maintaining a family in the public shelter system of Westchester County is \$4,000 per month. Since the average stay in the shelter system is now 37 months, the total cost of keeping a family in the shelter system for the average stay could be \$148,000—more than the Bridge Fund's total net outlays last year. Prevention of homelessness is a great investment for our community. The work of the Bridge Fund makes fiscal sense, and it makes humanitarian sense.

Currently the Bridge Fund is offering a number of critical services to the residents of Westchester County. The Bridge Fund runs a food pantry with the support of the Jewish Community center of White Plains. The food pantry assists families with food staples in times of crisis so they can continue to pay their rent.

The Bridge Fund also runs several mentoring programs. A budget mentoring program teaches families budgeting skills, and ensures a stable environment by helping them keep their finances in order. And the Bridge Fund's client mentoring program allows them to follow up with the families they assist. These follow-up visits have shown that over 90 percent of families helped by the Bridge Fund remained in the housing the Bridge Fund preserved for them.

The Bridge Fund has provided a critical service to Westchester County's families through their innovative approach to preventing homelessness. We are proud to pay tribute to the Bridge Fund for its efforts to combat homelessness on our streets.

## TRIBUTE TO TONY BEILENSEN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, TONY BEILENSEN of California has been, throughout his 20 years as a Member of this body, my kind of Congressman. Quietly effective, never partisan or rude, always thoughtful, always a gentleman. TONY is respected universally by both sides of the aisle as a Member who places fairness and even-handed treatment above partisan advantage, and his service as a member of the Rules Committee has always reflected this approach. He has left a legacy of that kind of leadership that does credit to the Congress of the United States, and we will miss him greatly.

If the Congress is to continue to be the kind of body that lives up to the ideals of our Founders and the expectations of our people, we will need many more TONY BEILENSONS here in the future. It is sad commentary that the type of Member favored by the media in America and the type increasingly elected here in recent years have favored the partisanship, bad manners, and ill-will that increasingly reflect the worst in our culture. In the face of all too much of this environment in the House, TONY BEILENSEN's calm voice of reason and thoughtful leadership stands out.

All of the Members of the House wish TONY well in all that he undertakes in the future. He takes with him into retirement our respect, admiration and appreciation for representing always the best among us.

## AUTHORIZING STATES TO DENY PUBLIC EDUCATION BENEFITS TO CERTAIN ALIENS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 1996*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4134.

It is indeed a sad day in the long history of our country when Members of this esteemed body must come to this Chamber to plead that the right to an education given to all children in this country by our Constitution should not be violated.

There is no question that we all want to protect our borders. The fact is, however, that H.R. 4134 will do nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigration or lessen the burden on our schools. It will, instead, significantly reduce the quality of life for all Americans. The bill will substantially increase costs to school districts and State and local governments by requiring them to use scarce resources to act as INS agents to document the legal status of all students.

And, there is no doubt that foreign appearing and speaking children will be discriminated against. This bill will only serve to create a climate of fear and distrust in which the children of U.S. citizens may also be harassed, or prevented from enrolling in school if they are unable to provide the necessary documents.